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Letter dated 5 October 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to forward, enclosed herewith, a memorandum on foreign interference regarding elections in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Vladislav **Jovanovic**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex to the letter dated 5 October 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Memorandum on foreign interference regarding elections in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia September-October 2000

1. Before as well as during the electoral process conducted so far, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and its citizens have been incessantly exposed to systematic and brutal pressure by some influential international factors, primarily the United States Administration and NATO countries, with the undisguised aim of directly interfering in the electoral process in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and of bringing inadmissible pressure to bear on the electoral will of its population.

(a) Political and psychological pressures and subversive activities:

During the period prior to the elections in Yugoslavia, centres for assisting Yugoslav opposition and destabilization of Yugoslavia were established in neighbouring countries (Szeged, Hungary; Timisoara, Romania; Sofia, Bulgaria; Skopje, Macedonia; and Tirana, Albania).

A month before the elections, on 15 August 2000, a United States regional centre was set up to coordinate the work of centres in individual countries of south-eastern Europe in order to exert political, psychological, diplomatic and subversive pressure. The Budapest-based United States centre engaged more than 30 experts for intelligence, propaganda, military intelligence and subversive activities against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, under the direction of the former United States Ambassador to Croatia, William Montgomery. The centre recruits experts from the United States Information Service (USIS), the CIA, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) and other similar United States agencies. For this reason, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia lodged an official written protest with the United Nations Security Council on 18 September 2000 by qualifying the establishment of this centre as a violation of the Vienna Conventions on Diplomatic and Consular Relations and international law and describing it as a gross interference in the internal affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (see S/2000/880). During the month of August 2000, the Director of the CIA, George Tennet, visited the broader region of south-eastern Europe (Bulgaria, Romania) to step up and coordinate pressure in the run-up to elections in Yugoslavia.

A ring of radio and television centres was established around the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to transmit anti-Yugoslav propaganda, the well-known system of NATO propaganda such as Radio Free Europe, *Deutsche Welle*, Voice of America and others. Hundreds of hours of anti-Yugoslav propaganda aimed at psychological and political pressure on the citizens of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, concocted in American and NATO centres of subversion and destabilization, are being aired via these systems and their transmitters from the territories of the Czech Republic, Hungary, Croatia, Romania, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Albania, on a daily basis. Many of these radio and television transmitters operate illegally on the same frequencies that, according to international

conventions, belong to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and are used by Yugoslav radio and television stations.

Also, statements of representatives from NATO countries have been noted to the effect that Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), concerning the Serbian province of Kosovo and Metohija, will not be implemented as long as the opposition in Belgrade is not victorious, which directly represents continuation of support for separatism, terrorism and international crime in Kosovo and Metohija and in Montenegro.

State Department spokesman Richard Boucher, on the very date of the elections (24 September) stated that if the opposition comes to power, the United States will take steps to lift the sanctions, but if President Milosevic stays in power, it will continue with its policy of sanctions and further isolation of the Yugoslav Government. This being recognition of the fact that sanctions have been used to wear down and punish a nation and as a form of prolonged aggression.

The European Union (EU) too sent a "message to the Serbian people" on 18 September, on the eve of the elections, overtly giving support to the Serbian opposition and promising to lift sanctions against it if it votes for the opposition. This is evidence of the illegal nature and unjustifiableness of sanctions as an instrument to violate fundamental human rights, grossly intervene in internal affairs and bring about the accomplishment of illegitimate political goals. On this score, the strongest protest was delivered to the EU representative at the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 21 September, and at EU headquarters in Brussels on 22 September, respectively.

Similar malicious views were publicly expressed daily in the media by the President of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly, by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of a number of EU countries, the EU High Representative and Commissioner for External Relations, as well as by the EU Stability Pact Coordinator and the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe, with a view to exercising an organized pressure on the public in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and on its electoral bodies and to prejudicing election results.

(b) Opposition funding:

The United States Administration, the Governments of NATO countries and various foundations, such as the Soros foundation, openly finance Yugoslav opposition and various forms of subversive activity aimed at destabilizing the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and at overthrowing its legitimate Government. This funding has been intensified, in particular after the announcement of nation-wide parliamentary, presidential and local elections. Funds have openly been allocated to opposition political parties and their leaders, to the so-called independent media, associations and structures of the so-called civil society and to individuals. Prior to these elections, the United States Administration paid US$ 77.2 million to the Yugoslav opposition, a public fact also confirmed by a daily newspaper close to the United States Administration, *The Washington Post*, on 22 September 2000. The same was also confirmed by sources in the United States Congress, the Department of State and others.

Only a day after the elections and the first round of Presidential election in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the United States Congress passed, on 25

September, the "Democratization of Serbia Act", making a series of gross and unsubstantiated allegations against the legitimate authorities in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and appropriating additional financial resources, to the tune of US$ 105 million, to bring them down, i.e. for the purposes of the Serbian opposition. This document, under the guise of an alleged concern for human rights, openly supported the separatism of ethnic Hungarians in the Serbian province of Vojvodina, where the majority Serbs live in harmony with 25 minorities.

A week before the elections, the Chargé d'affaires of the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Belgrade handed out cash funds in deutsche mark to students and young people in several towns in Serbia, thus directly promoting the cause of the opposition. The so-called independent media and the statements made by the Norwegian Chargé d'affaires bear witness to it. Such conduct by the Norwegian Chargé d'affaires, as an abuse of the hospitality of the Yugoslav Government, contradicts his diplomatic functions, whereas giving a bribe is punishable by law in all countries of the world. The Chargé d'affaires was twice officially warned (on 30 August and on 22 September 2000) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that such activity is a flagrant interference in internal affairs and a gross violation of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations. He was asked not to do so and to channel all assistance in accordance with the agreements and the normal practice existing in cooperation among sovereign States, via competent Government authorities, which the Chargé d'affaires completely ignored.

(c) Military pressure:

Prior to the elections, NATO forces began a series of military exercises in the immediate neighbourhood of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Thus, during the month of September, the territory of Romania was used to stage the military exercises code-named "Cooperative Key 2000", while, during the course of October, the exercises "Aquanaut 2000" are to be conducted in the Romanian waters of the Black Sea, with the participation of British and Dutch commandos. These exercises have been followed by those carried out jointly by NATO forces in the Aegean and Black Seas and in the Eastern Mediterranean, with the participation of about 70 warships. The American Sixth Fleet demonstrated force in the Adriatic close to the Yugoslav coast on the pretext of staging joint exercises with the Croatian armed forces.

All these actions have been coupled with threatening statements by senior military and political officials in the United States Administration and from other NATO countries and orchestrated by announcements in the media of another military campaign against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia "should Milosevic win".

2. The above facts testify to flagrant foreign interference in electoral processes by using propaganda and psychological, political and military pressure aimed at influencing the will of the electorate, which is contrary to what democracy is about and which constitutes a violation of all norms of international law, in

particular the Charter of the United Nations,[1] United Nations General Assembly resolution 54/168 on non-interference in electoral processes[2] and the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.[3]

3. The Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia recalls that, following the interference of foreign factors in its electoral process, it has already addressed the United Nations Security Council on 20 September 2000 (S/2000/885). The letter from the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to the United Nations, among other things, pointed out that: "The countries that, in wanton disregard for the Charter of the United Nations and circumventing the Security Council, carried out an armed aggression against my country last year, have now taken another step down the shameful road of disrespect for the basic norms of international law. In doing so, they have publicly and unscrupulously disparaged and encroached upon the inalienable right of Yugoslav voters to elect their own legitimate representatives. They have also violated General Assembly resolution

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[1] The Charter of the United Nations, in Article 2, para. 4, stipulates:

> "All Members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, or in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations."

Article 2, para. 7, explicitly stipulates that:

> "Nothing contained in the present Charter shall authorize the United Nations to intervene in matters which are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any state or shall require the Members to submit such matters to settlement under the present Charter ...".

[2] The question of interference in the electoral processes has been explicitly banned under General Assembly resolution 54/168 of 17 December 1999, entitled "Respect for the principles of national sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of States in their electoral processes". This resolution, inter alia, clearly states as follows:

> "2. *Reaffirms* the right of peoples, without external interference, to determine methods and to establish institutions regarding electoral processes and that, consequently, States should ensure, in accordance with their constitutions and national legislation, the necessary mechanism and means to facilitate full and effective popular participation in those processes;
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> "3. *Also reaffirms* that any activities that attempt, directly or indirectly, to interfere in the free development of national electoral processes, ... violate the spirit and letter of the principles established in the Charter and in the Declaration on Principles of International Law Concerning Friendly Relations ...
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> "5. *Strongly appeals* to all States to refrain from financing political parties or groups in other States and taking any other action that undermines their electoral processes".

[3] This principle has been defined in more detail and elaborated in this Declaration (General Assembly resolution 2625 (XXV) of 24 October 1970, annex), which, inter alia, states as follows:

> "No State or group of States has the right to intervene, directly or indirectly, for any reason whatever, in the internal or external affairs of any State ...
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> "No State may use or encourage the use of economic, political or any other type of measures to coerce another State in order to obtain from it the subordination of the exercise of its sovereign rights and to secure from it advantages of any kind. Also, no State shall organize, assist, foment, finance, incite or tolerate subversive, terrorist or armed activities directed towards the violent overthrow of the regime of another State, or interfere in civil strife in another State ...
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> "Every State has an inalienable right to choose its political, economic, social and cultural systems, without interference in any form by another State".

54/168 ... (which) was adopted exactly to prevent such inadmissible acts and practices."

The Yugoslav Government requested on that occasion that the Security Council address this important and urgent issue and take measures to put an end to flagrant interference in our internal affairs and ensure respect for international law and the decisions of the United Nations. Considering that the United Nations Security Council has not yet reacted to this communication, the Yugoslav Government, presenting once again the above facts, calls again upon the Security Council to take specific steps to condemn, in the strongest terms, interference by the above-mentioned external factors in the internal affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, especially interference in its electoral process and threats of force, so as to ensure the respect for the Charter of the United Nations, international law and United Nations General Assembly documents.